WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of facilitating provision of a point-to-point cable connection between first and second points separated by an extended span of water including a first region of shallow water and a second region of relatively deep water, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of ducts from the first point through the first region of the extended span to an offshore termination point between the first and second points;

placing a first cable in one of said plurality of ducts to provide a connection between the first point and said offshore termination point;

receiving at said offshore termination point, a second cable from the second point; and

connecting said first cable to said second cable at said offshore termination point to create the point-to-point cable connection.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said first point is onshore and said providing step comprises:

providing said plurality of ducts from the first point through the first region of the extended span to said offshore termination point between the first and second points, wherein said offshore termination point is at a distance of at least 2 kilometres from the first point.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said first point is onshore and wherein said providing step comprises:

providing said plurality of ducts from the first point through the first region of the extended span to said offshore termination point between the first and second points, wherein said offshore termination point is at a distance of about 10 to 20 kilometres from the first point.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said first point is onshore and wherein said providing step comprises:

providing said plurality of ducts from the first point through the first region of the extended span to said offshore termination point between the first and second points, wherein said offshore termination point is adjacent to a transition between the first and second regions.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said first region is the Continental Shelf.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said offshore termination point is positioned in water having a depth of less than about 200m.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein

said placing step comprises placing the first cable in one of said plurality of ducts to provide a connection between the first point and said offshore termination point, wherein said first cable is a relatively thin, lightweight cable; and

said receiving step comprises receiving at said offshore termination point, a second cable from the second point, wherein said second cable is an armoured cable.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of:

burying said plurality of ducts in the seabed.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

burying said plurality of ducts in the seabed at a burial depth that decreases as a function of distance from said first point such that said plurality of ducts are buried deeper near said first point.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said first point is onshore, adjacent a shoreline.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said providing step comprises:

providing said plurality of ducts from the first point through the first region of the extended span to said offshore termination point between the first and second points, wherein said offshore termination point is an offshore platform.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said providing step further comprises:

providing communication equipment on said offshore platform to receive and transmit signals via said first and second cables.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing a plurality of spaced apart cable exits in the region of the offshore termination point.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said step of providing a plurality of spaced apart cable exits comprises:

providing said plurality of spaced apart cable exits in the region of the offshore termination point, wherein said spaced apart cable exits are preferably spaced apart by at least 50m.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

branching each of said plurality of ducts so that each duct leads to a corresponding cable exit.

16. A system for facilitating provision of a point-to-point cable connection between first and second points separated by an extended span of water including a first region of shallow water and a second region of relatively deep water, comprising:

an offshore termination point located between the first and second points, for receiving at least one first cable from the first point and at least one second cable

from the second point and providing signal communication between the first point and the second point; and

a plurality of ducts extending from the first point through the first region of the extended span to said offshore termination point, each of said ducts being configured to receive at least one first cable.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein said offshore termination point is at a distance of at least 2 kilometres from the first point.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein said offshore termination point is at a distance of about 10 to 20 kilometres from the first point.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein said offshore termination point is adjacent a transition between the first and second regions.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein said first region is the Continental Shelf.

21. The system of claim 16, further comprising:

a first cable extending through one of said plurality of ducts to provide a connection between the first point and said offshore termination point; and

a second cable extending from the second point to said offshore termination point.